

REM POPULI TRACTAS?

A passion to reform the world is one of the engaging characteristics of youth; an appreciation of the magnitude and difficulties of the task is a handicap which grows with the years. When therefore from time to time I read in *Wessex News* of the approaching of the social or academic order I am not unduly disturbed. It is well to be reminded that, if one is young enough, perfection may still seem to be just round the corner. Even if one has grown out of that belief, anyone who has lived through the past fifty years would be singularly short-sighted if he thought that human society is, or is ever likely to be, a static affair. It is perhaps rather the rate of change that is most significant, and few periods have seen changes more rapid or far-reaching than our own. It is a commonplace to say that our technical achievements have out-run our powers of social adaptation, and the task that awaits us is to devise in the moral and intellectual sphere a technique, whereby the inevitable changes in the social or international order may be brought about without the violent upheavals by which they have been hitherto effected. Meanwhile our first attempts to construct such a system have failed, but we must not be too much discouraged by such a failure. So great a conception as an international order needs a long period to come to fruition. We shall return to the task. Meanwhile war remains the 'father of all things', and we are caught in the cataclysm and must once more play our part, if we are to implement those moral values which are inherent in the struggle. As I see it the contest is ultimately between the conception of an orderly world society and one in which the very notions of Justice and Morality are subordinated to national interest. To create such a society in a form more effective than the existing League of Nations has proved to be, will be the task worthy of all the enthusiasm and driving power of youth, when the war is over. Indeed it is only by enlisting men's emotions that such an ideal can ever be realised. The immense power that has been built up in Germany in support of doctrines of puerile triviality or monstrous barbarity may warn us of relying too exclusively upon intellectual values. A. E. Housman once remarked that 'the passion for the truth is the faintest of the human passions', and the vast mass of mankind is swayed by feeling rather than by logic. Yet we, as members of an academic society, are deeply concerned with intellectual matters, and it is in this field that we make our

distinctive contribution. Many of the resources of the universities are, as we all know, of direct and practical service to the prosecution of the war, and their contribution in the fields of medicine, science and technology are not likely to be overlooked. Yet all these things rest ultimately upon an intellectual basis, and those of us who are engaged upon studies of less immediate and practical use have also an important function to perform. It is our business to conserve and hand on the academic and cultural traditions upon which the very conception of ordered society rests, it is to provide intellectual discipline and to guide the enthusiasm of the younger generation to worthy ends. The younger contributors to *Wessex News* may fill its pages with 'slogans' (defined, I observe, by the concise Oxford dictionary as 'a Highland war-cry') but it is hard to make a slogan of the uses of wit with the subjunctive!

I fear that to conclude these remarks with an exhortation to return to the study of Greek particles or the solution of quadratic equations may savour of the puerility, yet those of us who have lived through one war no less devastating to the men of our generation than the present one is to-day, know that man does not live by poison gas alone, and that the knowledge of eternal values will not easily be obliterated from the hearts of men. The older generation may not see, or think that they see, a short cut to the millennium so plainly before their eyes, but they may comfort themselves with the word of one of the philosophers of our present enemies, 'the owl of Minerva does not start upon her flight until the shades of evening have begun to fall.'

G. F. FORSEY.

The Mixed Brew Crew.

The ability of politicians to say nothing in a great variety of ways has often been remarked upon. Mr. Whale has now extended this kind of activity. He felt that though it had been adopted by many philosophers in the realm of thought, and in word by politicians, yet in the world of deeds it had not really been tried. Men had very often done nothing, but that was all. He determined to do nothing in as many ways as possible and so he now engages in a great variety of occupations as vacuous a way as he can manage. Mr. Whale however

continued in next column

was not satisfied, he felt that it would not be fair to apply the fruits of his genius to himself alone and therefore he founded a society. Its purpose was to do collectively what Mr. Whale had done individually.

It was named the Mixed Brew Crew, constitution was drawn up and members were found who would participate in this new way of life. There are many offices in this society but a careful examination of the constitution shows that all power resides in the Treasurer in which post Mr. Whale has modestly put himself. This is quite satisfactory since the financial needs of the society all come from the Treasurer and why shouldn't he who pays the piper call the tune?

The Society's principal function is to meet whilst drinking tea, which is done several times a week. All remarks made in the course of conversation are recorded by Mr. Whale in a minute book and at the next meeting these minutes are read. The recorder is careful to note the most indiscreet remarks and any others that he hears (it is a very strange thing that so many remarks have apparently only been heard by the recorder, however he is known to admire Dr. Johnson). Extracts from the minutes would be most entertaining and sometimes revealing, but unfortunately they are secret. Members of the Society include Prof. Cock, an Hon. Vice-President, Dr. Ladborough, the President of the Union, and the Warden of Connaught is an honorary member. The main body of members however are old residents of S. Stoneham to whom Mr. Whale's philosophy is very attractive. The motto of the society is 'Minutae Sumptae Sunt'—or the minutes are taken; this expresses the aim of the society which is, if not to kill time, to harm it.

Visitors are invited to certain sessions of the society and among the visitors have been Prof. Watkin and members of Highfield. The founder however feels that one particular visitor is needed far more than any other if his way of life is to spread. That visitor is the Principal of the College.

Mr. Whale has a broad vision and hopes some day to solve the social problem. He feels that so far, reformers have been on the wrong track in trying to decrease unemployment. He argues that the ill success of reformers shows that it is necessary and points out how easy it would be to stop employment. If every one were unemployed there would be no class distinctions and no feelings of discriminatory treatment.

Finally, he says that this is not merely a theory of his but a proven fact, as his own life testifies its value. Others may see this in a different light.

Book Review

Some Recollections of Claude Goldsmid Montefiore. Lucy Cohen (Faber & Faber) 12/6.

In this collection of letters Miss Cohen has achieved the seemingly impossible. It would not be easy to construct a book which would bring back something of the personality the greatness and the charm of Dr. Montefiore even to those who were privileged to know him, and in this book Miss Cohen has done more than that.

While in no strict sense a full length biography, here is a work that retains something of the individuality of the original, and through its pages steps unmistakably Claude Montefiore in all his greatness, his humility and his simplicity.

Those who knew him will appreciate this tribute to his memory, and for those who had not that unique privilege here is a book that will give as far as is humanly possible, a living impression of a great man and of a lovable one. Miss Cohen knows so exactly what were the characteristics of her subject and her choice from his writings are admirably fitted to make his portrait.

'I don't think I like or approve of that religion or philosophy at all which "tries to inculcate not too much of the individual"—which religion is that? I don't believe in Humanity at all. It does not in the last resort exist. There are only Toms and Claras.' This sympathy with the individual rather than with the general is eminently characteristic.

In the Times obituary the Principal said of the subject of this memoir 'His love of his fellow men gave him an intense sympathy and a power to understand the difficulties of others, and this gained for him the affectionate loyalty of all with whom he worked. He was a supreme instance of intense simplicity and intense goodness, vitalising a great mind. His charity to those who disagreed with him was almost unlimited, but he knew when to be severe in his judgments and his course of action was always dictated by principle and not by expediency. He cared nothing for fame or worldly position: he was content to spend himself for the good of others.'

It is unnecessary to speak of what this college owes to him and

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, May 14th, 1940.

Officers—
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Editorial

The telescoping of Spring into Summer has forced a crop of phenomena which are both before their time and luxuriant. It is pleasing to the laudators temporis acti, no doubt, to see the Union returning to its pristine vigour, not to say acrimony; the present term tends well to resemble the days when there were giants in the land and the laws of libel meant nothing to us—and why should they? But at the same time we are urged on all hands to worship Diva Mediocritas, which, we suppose, means that we should bridle our tongues and opinions lest freedom be enforced by discipline. However futile this may seem to us at a season when our minds work more keenly and these things seem of such tremendous importance, nevertheless moderation in most things—for "moderation in all" is in itself the taking of an extreme—should be the chiefest of our warcries: more and farther—reaching results are obtained by moderation than by extremist policies—and besides we should always remember that though Time may be the enemy of Man, it is yet the chief Ally of Mankind. Not by any fine outbursts of oratory, but by simple insistence that "Karthago delenda est" did Cato the Censor bring about the destruction of the Adversary of the Roman People. We shall not insult you by labouring the point further.

Library List

PERIODICALS.

Le Temps, édition hebdomadaire illustrée (monthly).
Foreign Affairs (quarterly).
Journal of the Warburg Institute.
Great Britain and the East (monthly).

BIOGRAPHY.

Douglas (D.C.) English Scholars 1939. DA 3
Nostein (W.) English Folk: a book of characters. 1938 DA 28
Brandt (K.) The emperor Charles V. DD 179
Burckhardt (C.J.) Richelieu, 1940. DC 123, R5
Churchill (W.L.S.) Malborough, his life and times. 4 vol., 1934-9 DA 462, M3
Eve (A.S.) Rutherford. 1939. QC 16, R
Green (F.C.) Stendhal. 1939. PQ 2436

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Correspondence

To the Editor of "Wessex News".
Sir,

In some recent articles in *Wessex News*, in particular two by Mr. Campbell Matthews, there are a few remarks which appear to me to assume the existence of a state of affairs within this College and in other University institutions, which I personally do not believe does exist to any considerable extent; and which, if it did exist, would be disastrous to any sort of higher education. It is stated as if it were a fact with which all must agree, that 'the Corporateness of the Universities is a vanished thing'; and that 'Master and pupil meet like employer and employee, mutually hostile.' It would be difficult to conceive of a more complete distortion of the actual relations prevailing in all departments of this College with which I am personally acquainted, than to suggest that staff and students are 'mutually hostile'. I do not like, either, the use of the terms 'master and pupil', which smack of the middle school rather than of an institution of higher education and learning; and indeed, it has often seemed to me that that section of student opinion which takes the trouble to contribute to *Wessex News* (hope not), I believe and the whole of the student opinion of this College, tends to draw far too strong a division between students and staff, and between their respective interests.

One of the main functions of a University is to provide an atmosphere in which students can look at the subjects which they are studying, and at their application in the world, as grown up people actually interested in those subjects and preparing to apply them to the needs of themselves and of mankind. With somewhat greater experience, the staff can, while teaching the fundamentals and the principal facts of the sciences, indicate how they are actually practised in the world. But all through a University course, there ought to be no gulf fixed between staff and students. All alike are really students, in the sense that they are ever learning and improving their mastery of their sciences of arts, and improving this by actual daily practice, inspired by some degree of genuine interest and liking for their subjects. The ability of students of the present generation ought not to be, and is not, as far as my experience goes, at all inferior to that of the older generation whose lot it is now to be 'the staff'; Their powers of independent judgement, like those of all people, need exercise, and improve with exercise and with experience; but the only real difference between students and staff is that the staff have a few more years' experience of the science, and can to some extent place this at the disposal of their students. In every other respect the students should, and in some cases do, feel on an equality with the staff.

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CORRESPONDENCE—cont.

In a College of the size of ours, the mixing of staff and students can, and does, occur to a much greater extent in the daily teaching than would be inferred by a casual reader of the first article in your issue of March 5th. There is, in the parts of the College with which I am best acquainted little or no demanding of work, or coercion; occasionally it is necessary to remind a student who is clearly not making his contribution to his own education, or to the work of the class, without which no amount of free higher education can possibly do him any good, that it is up to him to do his part. I am very anxious, in the interests of genuine education, as well as of friendship between staff and students, that the impression which I am sure is a false one, that education here is conducted on a basis of coercion of the unwilling learner, should be removed.

Mr. Matthews urges greater freedom of speech. With this I most cordially agree. As a fellow student I most heartily welcome free interchange of ideas with friends of all ages, and hope there will be more and more of that. But I would plead for a little more precision of speech and writing, than the mere wild hurling of the sometimes meaningless slogans of left wing politicians, whose sole object seems to me to induce resentment in those who sympathise with this view of politics, against the existing social 'system'; or in those who are oppositely inclined, against the extravagances of speech and abuse which such politicians consider proper. There are few people nowadays who are genuinely desirous of improving social conditions; but to denounce all who may not agree as to the practicable method (e.g. commencing the reform of the Universities by 'destroying the State') as Fascists or reactionaries, contributes absolutely nothing to social or educational betterment.

N. K. ADAM.

To the Editor "Wessex News".

Dear Sir,
I wish to express some of the indignation which I felt on reading Mr. Campbell Matthews' article on "Southampton and the Congress" in the last issue of *Wessex News*.

The article indicated Communist tendencies which certainly do not exist among the majority of the students here, but which are confined only to a few reactionaries. It was very strange that one with such marked Communist views should be sent to Congress as a representative of the opinion of the students of this College.

It is largely due to the political apathy into which the majority of our students have fallen, that the impression is rife that this College is a "hot-bed" of Communism; it is high time that the students of this College took a more active part in removing this impression.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC E. T. CATTENMULL.

CORRESPONDENCE—cont.

To the Editor of "Wessex News".
Dear Sir,

The "Peace Discussion Group" has been formed at Connaught Hall. The Group decided that its chief object should be to counteract by discussion and lectures the growing feeling at College that war, particularly the present war, is glorious, righteous and in the interests of the people. Membership of the P.D.G. is confined to College members who are opposed to the present war or to all wars. But, of course, all members of the College are invited to the lectures and discussions. The majority of the lecturers will probably represent the various points of view opposed to the war, but the P.D.G. will also endeavour to obtain lecturers who support the war, for the special feature of the Group is the large amount of time to be devoted to discussion at each meeting.

One of the purposes of the Group is to provide a means through which students will be enabled to question the lecturers in the series of lectures being held at College on the War. The P.D.G. has invited the Principal to answer questions arising from his lecture "Why we are at war," and asks other College groups and societies to co-operate in arranging the meeting.

Yours truly,
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WESSEX NEWS

The War

On May 2nd, Miss Miller gave the third lecture in the series on the War. Her subject was the "Geographical Background."

Miss Miller showed how geographical environment in Europe influenced the War. The Hercynian Mountains were so arranged that Britain and Germany were by far the leading coal producers in Europe. With the exception of the U.S.A., Germany and Britain were the only countries in the world which mined more coal than they needed for home production. Coal was still the chief source of fuel for industry. But Britain and Germany had insufficient foodstuffs and raw materials for home needs. These needs could easily be supplied by other countries which produced more food and raw materials than they required at home but needed manufactured goods. For these markets Britain and Germany competed.

In relation to the world, Britain was more favourably situated than Germany. But Germany had a better position for trade with central and south-eastern Europe, Russia and Sweden. These regions had more raw materials and foodstuffs than they needed for home consumption but they required manufactures. Thus German expansion should not be prevented in central and south-eastern Europe. Miss D. Johnson, an American journalist, believed that this expansion could have been peaceful.

LIBRARY LIST—continued. PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY.

Abercrombie (N.J.) Saint Augustine and French classical thought. 1938. B 1809
Santayana (G.) Egotism in German philosophy. 1939. B (Ex-M) J
Kohler (W.) Gestalt psychology. 1930. BF 203
Spearman (C.E.) Creative mind. 1930. BF 408
MacMurray (J.) Reason and emotion. 1938. BF 531
Frazer (Sir J.G.) Psyche's task, the influence of superstition on the growth of institutions. 1909. BL 490

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Post Mortem

How wistfully and with what sighs We followed slowly in the train Of those whose patriotic minds Had led them thither once again To swell the Union Meeting.

Tall tulips preening in the sun And drowsing lilac made it hard To miss the usual lunch-hour stroll And suffer "minutes" by the yard To Hell with Union Meeting!

The Lord High Admiral of the Fleet
(Close guardian of the boathouse key)

Was followed then by C. T. Reed Who "championed" our L.s.d. Right well at Union Meeting.

Acceptance of the balance sheet Produced some rather "caty" thanks;

Who dared?—what creature in the front,
What Tom Dick Harry in the ranks?

—To yell at Union Meeting?

We "Struggelled" through a long report,
Censored

Upon the Conference held at Leeds,
And listened to proposals two,
That fell on Union Meeting.

That Students now must mingle more,
And quit this life aloof and small,
And lend their academic minds To better life for one and all

They tell at Union Meeting.

A fiery youth then rose and spoke With pamphleteering for his theme,

But he was bogged by Harold Marsh
And his fond hope became a dream.

Farewell to Union Meeting.

BOOK REVIEW—continued.

what he did and what he enabled others to do will long be remembered. I know how much he valued what this place was and what it could and must become, and those who read this book will have no doubt of what his wishes would consist. By his death Southampton University College lost a friend, but he has left us something of his courage, his dignity and love of learning; and he would no greater memorial than that we should try in our smaller way to carry on some of the work that he was inspired to do, with his tolerance, his vision and his affection and in his spirit of humility: "If only I were 15% more learned and 80% more able, I could really produce a good book, but in truth, alas, I am not fitted intellectually or spiritually for the job. However, there it is, and I have to go on."

All members of U.C.S. should read this book, they would enjoy it and profit greatly.

Miss Cohen is to be congratulated.

LIBRARY LIST—continued.

LOCAL HISTORY.

Freeman (J.P.W.) An introduction to field archaeology as illustrated by Hampshire. 1915. Cope 914

Oppenheim (L.F.L.) International law... 5th ed. edited by H. Lauterpacht, 2 vols. 1937, 1935. JX 1271

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE.

Kitto (H.D.F.) Greek tragedy: a literary study. 1939. PA 3135

Caster (M.) Lucien et la pensée religieuse de son temps. 1937. PA 4236

Dauzat (A.) La toponymie française. 1939. PC 2700

Entwhistle (W.J.) European balladry. 1939. PN 1376

Chamard (H.) Histoire de la Pléiade. 1939. (in progress) PQ1664

France (A.) Le génie latin. n.ed., 1920. PQ 2234

Valery (P.) Introduction à la poésie. 2e. ed., 1938. PQ 2643

Chaucer (G.) The text of the Canterbury tales (ed. J.M. Manly and E. Rickert) 8 vol., 1940. PR 1866M

Bithell (J.) Modern German literature, 1880-1938. 1939. PT 401

Morgan (B.Q.) A critical bibliography of German literature in English translation 1481-1927. With supplement. 1928-35. 2nd. ed., rev., 1938. (PT 1113) placed at PR 135. G

LIBRARY LIST—continued.

SCIENCE.

Bernal (J.D.) The social function of science. 1939. Q 126.5

Levy (H.) Modern science: a study of physical science in the world of to-day. 1939. Q 162

Hobson (E.W.) The domain of natural science. 1926. (Q 171) placed at BL 27

Mellor (J.W.) Higher mathematics for students of chemistry and physics, with special reference to practical work. 1939. QA 401

Fowler (R.H.) and Guggenheim (E.A.) Statistical thermodynamics. QC 311 (Physics Dept.)

Mann (W.B.) The cyclotron. 1940. QC 544. C

Davies (G.M.) The Dorset coast: a geological guide. 1935. QE 262. D (Zoo. Dept.)

Huxley (J.S.) ed. The new systematics. 1940. QH 83 (Zoo. Dept.)

Wheeler (L.R.) Vitalism: its history and validity. 1939. QH 305

Oparin (A.L.) The origin of life: trsl. by S. Margulies. 1938. QH 325 (Zoo. Dept.)

Sinnett (E.W.) and Dunn (L.C.) The principles of genetics. 3rd. ed., 1939. QH 471 (Zoo. Dept.)

Gardner (A.D.) Bacteriology for medical students and practitioners 2nd. ed., 1938. QR 46

Dunston (A.E.) and others. The science of petroleum 4 Vol. 1938 (Chem. Dept.) TN 870

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SPORTS

BOAT CLUB'S PROSPECTS AT BRISTOL. FENCING CLUB FAILS AT READING.

For its first race of the season, the Boat Club, probably the least publicised but best supported club in College, goes to Bristol next Saturday.

Last term illness interfered with the practice of a regular first eight and this term is not far enough advanced for the eight to achieve the perfect harmony and balance essential for successful racing.

It is agreed, however, that this year's crew is quite as strong as previous successful crews, and as the crew has now gone into strict training, the final and vital week's practices may achieve the perfection desired in crew-work.

We expect good news on Saturday.

While the Boat Club is reaching its peak, experiments in the composition of the cricket and tennis teams still continue.

The Cricket Club's batting needs strengthening, for nothing is more encouraging for a fielding side than quick wickets. Mention must be made, however, of increased support for the Cricket Club, and the keenness of members to practise.

The Tennis Club has suffered two rather catastrophic defeats, mainly due to lack of concentration and practice. The team should remember that match tennis is something more than a pastime and haphazard stroke production and slipshod court technique do not win matches.

FENCING CLUB.

Foil.—Reading University 47 points, 10 bouts; U.C.S. 33 points, 6 bouts.

This was by no means such a woeful result as it may seem on paper. The system of awarding victory or defeat was strange to us, and the judging at times proves even stranger and maybe a little lacking in perception. The match began badly for U.C.S. for we lost the first three fights in a row, but we quickly recovered, and by the end of the second round scores were equal at 20 points and 4 bouts each. May, a newcomer to our team, and a left-hander, did not disgrace himself in his first match; he contributed very materially to the recovery and throughout was obviously a thorn in the side of the opposition. The third and fourth rounds went against us. We had the bad luck to lose several bouts by the odd deciding point, and the most noticeable thing was the way in which the somewhat crude and heavy-handed opponent often won by sheer strength and weight, lack of finesse and frequent complete non-reaction to the U.C.S. subtlety, and we lost many points perfectly scored but apparently not seen.

We trust the result will be well and truly reversed at the return match which will probably be on Wednesday.

CRICKET CLUB.

U.C.S. v. Southampton Police.

U.C.S.

K. East b. Budd 3; A. G. Baylis b. Budd 14; N. A. Windhurst run out 4; L. A. Smith c. Henderson b. Budd 20; R. Smith b. Budd 8; H. S. Marsh st. Henderson b. Baker 7; L. M. Wallace l.b.w. Dodd 6; E. Ellery c. Henderson b. Baker 1; H. C. P. Burden not out 16; R. S. Elliott ht. wkt. b. Dodd 0; J. Counsell c. Gibbons b. Dodd 23; R. L. White did not bat. Extras 12; Total 114-10 dec

POLICE.

L. Budd c. Counsell b. Wallace 10; E. Watkins c. East b. Marsh 72; R. Figgins b. Counsell 1; W. Dodd c. Baylis b. Elliott 2; E. Henderson not out 23; H. Denone not out 8; Extras 4; Total 120-4 wks.

The 1st XI met Southampton Police on Wednesday, and lost by 6 wickets.

College batted first, and showed early signs of improved batting, after an indifferent start to the season. Baylis made a patient 14 and L. A. Smith played attractively, if somewhat hazardously, for his 20. At this stage the bowlers seemed to be getting on top, and the next few wickets fell cheaply. However, a timely tenth wicket stand by Burden and Counsell retrieved the situation, Counsell being particularly severe on Dodd, and College declared with the score at 114.

Unfortunately, the Police batsmen were in irresistible form, and showed up our shortcomings by flogging the bowling to all corners of the field, Watkins was particularly brilliant, scoring 10 4's and 2 6's in his 72—one glorious hit of his cleared the trees in Wessex Lane!

As a result of this inspired batting the Police passed our total with 2 minutes to go, after scoring 120 in 55 minutes.

Some rather mediocre outfielding was partly relieved by two excellent catches by East and Baylis.

U.C.S. v. Mr. Thackeray's XI.

In a match against Mr. Thackeray's XI on May 4th the College bowlers dismissed the opposition for the meagre score of 11 (is this a record?) Counsell had 7 wickets for 8, and Wallace 3 for 2. We shudder to think what would have been the score, had not the Registrar, as number 12, showed unexpected resistance—he just beat Mr. Hibberd by a short head as highest scorer.

RESULT.

U.C.S. 1st XI v. Eastleigh, Wed. May 1st. Drawn. Eastleigh 123 for 8 dec.; U.C.S. 66 for 8 (Wallace 40 not out).

Labour Club

On Tuesday 2nd May, the Labour Club held a business meeting to consider the recent action of the National Executive Council of the Labour Party in disaffiliating the University Labour Federation. It was pointed out that this step was taken for unspecified reasons, and that the U.L.F. was given no opportunity for defending its actions or for stating its case. The meeting, by an almost unanimous vote, assented to a resolution condemning the action of the N.E.C. and demanding for the U.L.F. the right of laying its case before the Bournemouth Conference of this month.

Tuesday, 14th May; Alan Jenkins (L.B.C.): "Conditions inside France." 1.20, Room 31. Wednesday 15th May; Study Circle; 8.30, Connaught Hall.

Tuesday, 21st May; Visiting Speaker: Southampton Trade Unionist.

Wednesday, 22nd May; Study Circle; 8.30, Connaught Hall.

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